
21st MARCH, 1804.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole House, this day.

A B I L L

Further to protect the Commerce and Seamen of the United States, against the Barbary powers.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That
3 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of equipping, officering,
4 manning, and employing such of the armed vessels of the United
5 States, as may be deemed requisite by the President of the United
6 States, for protecting the commerce and seamen thereof, and for
7 carrying on warlike operations against the regency of Tripoli, or
8 any other of the Barbary Powers, which may commit hostilities
9 against the United States, and for the purpose also of defraying
10 any other expenses incidental to the intercourse with the Barbary

11 Powers, or which are authorised by this act. A duty of two and
 12 an half *per centum ad valorem*, in addition to the duties now impos-
 13 ed by law, shall be laid, levied and collected upon all goods, wares,
 14 and merchandise, paying a duty *ad valorem*, which shall after the
 15 thirtieth day of June next, be imported into the United States from
 16 any foreign port or place : and an addition of ten per centum shall
 17 be made to the said additional duty in respect to all goods, wares,
 18 and merchandise imported in ships or vessels not of the United
 19 States : And the duties imposed by this act shall be levied and
 20 collected in the same manner, and under the same regulations and
 21 allowances as to drawbacks, mode of security, and time of payment
 22 respectively, as are already prescribed by law in relation to the du-
 23 ties now in force on the articles in which the said additional duty
 24 is laid by this act.

1 SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That a distinct account shall
 2 be kept of the duties imposed by this act, and the proceeds thereof
 3 shall constitute a fund, to be denominated "the Mediterranean Fund,"
 4 and shall be applied solely to the purposes designated by this act :
 5 And the said additional duty shall cease and be discontinued at the
 6 expiration of three months after the ratification by the President of
 7 the United States, of a treaty of peace with the regency of Tripoli,
 8 unless the United States should then be at war with any other of
 9 the Barbary Powers, in which case the said additional duty shall
 10 cease and be discontinued at the expiration of three months after

11 the ratification by the President of the United States of a treaty of
 12 peace with such power : *Provided however*, That the said addition-
 13 al duty shall be collected on all such goods, wares, and merchan-
 14 dise, liable to pay the same, as shall have been imported previous
 15 to the day on which the said duty is to cease.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the
 2 United States, if he shall deem it necessary, shall be, and he is
 3 hereby authorised to cause to be purchased or built, officered,
 4 manned, and equipped, two vessels of war, to carry not more than
 5 sixteen guns each, and likewise to hire or accept on loan in the
 6 Mediterranean sea, as many gun-boats as he may think proper.

1 SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum not exceeding one mi-
 2 llion of dollars, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not other-
 3 wise appropriated, shall be, and the same is hereby appropriated (in
 4 addition to the sum heretofore appropriated for the same objects)
 5 for the purpose of defraying any of the expenses authorised by
 6 this act, which may be incurred during the present year : Or if
 7 necessary the President of the United States is hereby authorised
 8 to borrow the said sum, or such part thereof as he may think pro-
 9 per, at a rate of interest not exceeding *six per centum per annum*,
 10 from the bank of the United States, which is hereby empowered
 11 to lend the same, or from any other body or bodies politic or corpo-
 12 rate, or from any person or persons ; and so much of the proceeds
 13 of duties laid by this act, as may be necessary, shall be and is here-

14 by pledged for replacing in the treasury, the said sum of one mil-
15 lion of dollars, or so much thereof as shall have been thus expend-
16 ed, and for paying the principal and interest of the said sum, or
17 so much thereof as may be borrowed, pursuant to the authority
18 given in this section : And an account of the several expenditures
19 made under this act, shall be laid before Congress during their
20 next session.